

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 29, 2001 LB 51

one that does not cause me a great amount of heartburn with reference to how these agents are regulated or who requires it, so long as they're not being given the authority, these agents I mean, to gouge, mislead, treat...I meant trick, hoodwink, bamboozle and use outright fraud, which they basically do now with the approval of most people who regulate them. Because the insurance industry is so powerful, it is feared. What I'm looking at is the prerogative of this Legislature to enact laws beneficial to the citizens of this state. In some instances, as I mentioned, where you're talking about the right of a citizen to vote, one size can fit all. The right should be the same for all citizens anywhere in this country. But when we come to a matter like the one we're confronting here, people of good will, people who are intelligent and knowledgeable could have legitimate differences of opinion as to the best way to go about regulating these people and the means used to carry out those regulations. Some people might think, for example, that you write a skeleton of a law, even if it's detailed and has a lot of bones, but you give to the Insurance Commissioner rulemaking authority which would amount to the cosmetic work of putting flesh then skin over those bones. Others may say, I am so distrustful of that industry, I want things put in the law, more regulations in the law itself so that an insurance commissioner, most of whom in Nebraska go on to work for the insurance industry after they leave that position, will not be led or inspired to work against the interests of the people. The issue here is whether or not an action is going to be taken by the Legislature to adopt an act which may not necessarily be in the best interests of the citizens of Nebraska. If the terms of this bill are valid and work for the people of this state, then the other matters are not too consequential because I think a majority of the states are going to knuckle under and do this. Nebraska does not have...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to do this. And when those other states knuckle under, then Nebraska can work out reciprocal arrangements with whatever states they choose. I'm still listening to the discussion because I am not convinced that, from the standpoint of the prerogatives of the Legislature, this